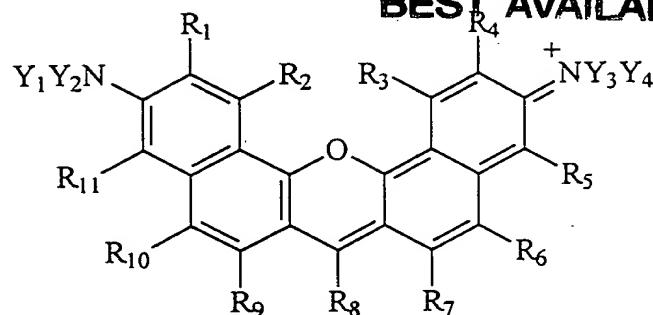


ABSTRACT

Extended rhodamine compounds exhibiting favorable fluorescence characteristics having the structure

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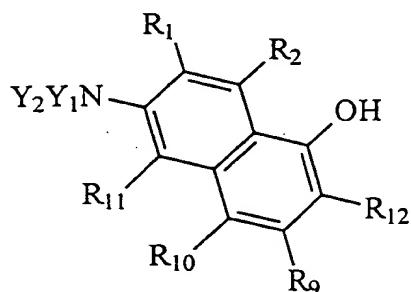
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are disclosed. In addition, novel intermediates for synthesis of these dyes are disclosed, such intermediates having the structure



In addition, methods of making and using the dyes as fluorescent labels are disclosed.